

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00710 110918Z

12
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 MCT-01

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R 101320Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4125
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
COMIDEASTFOR
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0710

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS SIGHTED WITH ELF

1. A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED THAT AN ETHIOPIAN PASTOR, WHO WAS MAKING THE ROUNDS OF HIS PARISHIONERS, OBSERVED TWO CAUCASIAN MALES IN THE VILLAGE OF ZAZIGA, 22 KMS WNW OF ASMARA ALONG THE

ABANDONED RAILROAD LINE TO KEREN. THE TWO WERE IDENTIFIED TO THE PASTOR AS JOURNALISTS "EITHER AMERICAN OR GERMAN" (OR ACCORDING TO LATER INFORMATION, POSSIBLY SWEDES) WHO HAD BEEN ESCORTED TO ZAZIGA BY THE ELF IN ORDER TO PHOTOGRAPH THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00710 110918Z

VILLAGE BY AMERICAN-MANUFACTURED AIRCRAFT. THE PASTOR SAID ONLY

THAT THE TWO JOURNALISTS WERE DRESSED FOR TRAVELLING IN THE COUNTRY AND WERE, IN FACT, ARMED WITH CAMERAS. THE PASTOR NEVER APPROACHED THE JOURNALISTS AND THEREFORE DID NOT HEAR IN WHAT LANGUAGE THEY WERE TALKING.

2. THE ALLEGED PURPOSE OF THE JOURNALISTS VISIT WAS TO FILM SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY EAF BOMBING AND COMPARE THOSE SCENES WITH LATER PICTURES OF THE ELF ASSISTING THE VILLAGERS IN REPAIRING THE DAMAGE. THE VILLAGERS SEEMED TO GRASP FULLY THE PROPAGANDA THRUST OF THE EXERCISE AND TO HAVE NO OBJECTION.

3. REQUEST INFORMATION ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE ON POSSIBILITY AMERICAN OR EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS MAY HAVE SLIPPED INTO ERITREA RECENTLY.
SLUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, JOURNALISTS, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ASMARA00710
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760343-1038
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760975/aaaacrlj.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOURNALISTS SIGHTED WITH ELF
TAGS: PINS, ET, ELF
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006